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Tuesday, May 2, 1967

Allen-Scott Report

Red Ships In Cuba Called Mystery

By ROBERT S. ALLEN
and PAUL SCOTT



Mr. Allen

WASHINGTON, May 1: A sud-
den and myste- large in-
crease in the number of
bloc ships has been arriving in
Cuba.

More than 70 vessels — the
largest number since just be-
fore the October 1962 missile
crisis — docked at the island's
major ports in a seven-day pe-
riod late last month.

Large quantities of military
supplies and thousands of ad-
ditional Soviet personnel were
unloaded from these ships,
which included several with
wide hatches capable of trans-
porting intermediate range bal-
listic missiles.

All unloading was done usu-
ally at night and under tightest
secrecy, with numerous troops
guarding the docks and roads
leading to them.

In direct response to this ap-
parent big armament build-up,
the U.S. has doubled the num-
ber of high-level reconnaissance
flights in an effort to obtain ad-
ditional information.

So far, efforts to ascertain
whether the shipments include
missiles have been unsuccess-
ful.

Cuban refugees, who sounded
the first alarm about the in-
creased military shipments,
claim they do include missiles.
Under discussion in inner White
House councils are possible low-
level reconnaissance flights to
obtain more precise photos of
areas where missiles might be
stored.

As happened in the Kennedy
administration in 1962, the John-
son administration is keeping a
high secrecy lid on this latest
foreboding Cuban development.

Members of Congress got the
first hint of the matter more or
less accidentally when General
Robert Porter, head of the U.S.
Southern Command testified of
the new \$3,126 billion foreign
aid appropriation at a closed-
door meeting of the House For-
eign Affairs Committee.

When asked "What is going
on in Cuba now," he replied:

"We are doing everything we
can to find out. Intelligence is
deeply concerned over the in-
creased number of Soviet bloc
ships arriving at Cuban ports in
recent weeks. During one seven-
day period, between 70 and 75
vessels arrived with vast
amounts of military supplies
and additional Soviet troops.

"This traffic represents the
largest number of Soviet bloc
ship arrivals in Cuba since the
1962 crisis."

Expressing reluctance to go
into further detail, General Por-
ter assured the legislators, "In-
tensive reconnaissance mea-
sures are being taken to deter-
mine the nature and type of
this new Soviet military build-
up."

Members of General Porter's
staff later explained that he was
not able to tell the committee

any more because of a high-level
ban on talking.
He stated this silence
was imposed by Pentagon au-
thorities.

This column can report that
U.S. reconnaissance planes
have taken dozens of pictures
of Soviet bloc ships. Also the
Defense Intelligence Agency has
received startling information
from Cuban refugees. The reli-
ability of these reports is in the
process of being checked.

One, reportedly an eye-witness
account, claims that in one week
the refugees saw 13 Russian
ships in one Cuban port, nine
in another, and eight in a third
port. These refugees, recently
arrived from Cuba, also asserted
they saw several large tractor-
trailer type trucks transporting
large missiles on a road some
20 miles from Havana.

When the refugees were
spotted by Cuban troops guard-
ing the highway, they were or-
dered to turn around and go in
another direction. They did that,
and shortly thereafter encoun-
tered a long truck convoy with
hundreds of newly-arrived So-
viet military personnel.

Another recent Cuban refugee
reported that he worked for sev-
eral months in northwest Cuba
building missile-launching plat-
forms, silo blocks and install-
ing wiring equipment for mis-
sile installations.

Although sharply restricted in
what he could relate about the
sinister Soviet build-up, General
Porter was able to fully brief
the House committee on Cas-
tro's expanded efforts to send
guerrillas and terrorists to oth-
er Latin American countries.

"Efforts to stimulate, coordi-
nate and unify the Communist
movement, subversion, and ter-
ror activities in Latin America
are aggressively underway,"
said Porter. "A permanent ap-
paratus — the Latin American
Solidarity Organization (LASO)
— was established as a by-prod-
uct of the 1966 Havana Tricon-
tinental Conference. LASO's op-
erational base is in Havana and
its objective is to encourage,
support and coordinate Commu-
nist subversion in the hemi-
sphere. LASO is actively pur-
suing the goals for which it was
created.

"Cuba has already trained
several thousand terrorists and
guerrillas who are prepared to
initiate and support disorders,
riots and insurgency whenever
the situation is ripe, and that
may be very soon."

Asked what might be ex-
pected in the near future, Gen-
eral Porter replied:

"One of Castro's objectives
will be to assist the Viet Cong
by diverting U.S. attention and
resources to other critical
areas. The Communists know
that events in Vietnam will have
a direct bearing on the success
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Called Mystery**By **ROBERT S. ALLEN**
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All unloading was done usually at night and under tightest secrecy, with numerous troops guarding the docks and roads leading to them.

In direct response to this apparent big armament build-up, the U.S. has doubled the number of high-level reconnaissance flights in an effort to obtain additional information.

So far, efforts to ascertain whether the shipments include missiles have been unsuccessful.

Cuban refugees, who sounded the first alarm about the increased military shipments, claim they do include missiles. Under discussion in inner White House councils are possible low-level reconnaissance flights to obtain more precise photos of areas where missiles might be stored.

As happened in the Kennedy administration in 1962, the Johnson administration is keeping a tight secrecy lid on this latest foreboding Cuban development.

Members of Congress got the first hint of the matter more or less accidentally when General Robert Porter, head of the U.S. Southern Command, testified on the new \$3.126 billion foreign aid appropriation at a closed-door meeting of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

When asked "What is going on in Cuba now," he replied:

"We are doing everything we can to find out. Intelligence is deeply concerned over the increased number of Soviet bloc ships arriving at Cuban ports in recent weeks. During one seven-day period, between 70 and 75 vessels arrived with vast amounts of military supplies and additional Soviet troops.

"This traffic represents the largest number of Soviet bloc ship arrivals in Cuba since the 1962 crisis."

Expressing reluctance to go into further detail, General Porter assured the legislators, "Intensive reconnaissance measures are being taken to determine the nature and type of this new Soviet military build-up."

Members of General Porter's staff later explained that he was not able to tell the committee

any more because of a high-level ban on talking.

Porter's silence was imposed by Pentagon authorities.

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"Efforts to stimulate, coordinate and unify the Communist movement, subversion, and terrorist activities in Latin America are aggressively underway," said Porter. "A permanent apparatus — the Latin American Solidarity Organization (LASO) — was established as a by-product of the 1966 Havana Tricontinental Conference. LASO's operational base is in Havana and its objective is to encourage, support and coordinate Communist subversion in the hemisphere. LASO is actively pursuing the goals for which it was created."

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